

The Progressive Farmer.

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"The Progressive Farmer will be, in the broadest sense of the word, a North Carolina paper. Serving no master, ruled by no faction, circumscribed by no selfish or narrow policy, its aim will be to foster and promote the best interests of the whole people of the State. It will be true to the instincts, traditions and history of the Anglo-Saxon race. On all matters relating specially to the great interests it represents it will speak with no uncertain voice, but will fearlessly the right defend, and impartially the wrong condemn."—From Col. Polk's Salutatory, February 10, 1886.

WHAT WE ASK OF THE LEGISLATURE.

1. Economy but not parsimony. Steer clear both of stinginess and extravagance.

2. As few laws as possible. We have too many. In a multitude of statutes there is confusion.

3. Justice to rich and poor, individuals and corporations, alike. Do not cringe to wealth, as corrupt men do, in hope of gain; do not revile it, as demagogues do, in hope of popularity.

4. Justice to the negro, from whom, for the safety of the State, we have taken power. It requires neither courage nor manliness to jump on the man who is down. In the language of our Governor: "It is true that a superior race cannot submit to the rule of a weaker race without injury; it is also true in the long years of God that the strong cannot oppress the weak without destruction."

5. A forward movement in education. It is not enough merely to hold the ground that we have gained. The State must continue its aid to the weaker districts. The rural school library appropriation should be extended. The salary of the State Superintendent should be increased. The study of the elements of agriculture should be provided for. Let us stop fostering the idea that education is needed only in commercial or professional life; let us direct attention to the El Dorado of undreamed-of possibilities in scientific agriculture.

6. A saving of child-life. The children of to-day will make the North Carolina of to-morrow, and the State must protect them to save herself. She must protect the children of the factories—whether from greedy capitalists or cruel parents it matters not. Nor must the wayward children be neglected. A Reformatory should be established for them. The reformatory saves three-fourths of the young offenders to good citizenship; the jail, at about the same cost, trains three-fourths of them for further crime.

7. Temperance legislation. That asked by the Anti-Saloon League is reasonable and just. The law should assume that the people do not want whiskey unless they ask for it, not that whiskey is wanted everywhere except where it has been expressly prohibited.

8. An appropriation should be made for an agricultural building at the A. and M. College. Eighty-two per cent of our State's population is agricultural. But though this eighty-two per cent has voted appropriations and paid taxes for the thorough equipment of the textile and mechanical departments of the College, the agricultural department is still in cramped quarters, wretchedly equipped. With the number of agricultural students doubled within two years, it becomes the imperative duty of the Legislature to heed this demand of the farmers of the State.

9. Miscellaneous. A better divorce law is needed; the one now in force discredits the State. The insane must be cared for; there is no worthier charity. A new Code would save confusion, worry, and lawyers' fees. The birds should be protected; they are being killed off too rapidly, and crop pests are increasing. There should be no bond issue if it can be avoided, but it would be better to issue bonds than cripple our educational or charitable work.

Finally, "be just and fear not," for "there is but one way only to serve the people well, and that is to do the right thing, trusting them as they may ever be trusted, to approve the things which count for the betterment of the State."

AGRICULTURE AT THE A. & M. COLLEGE.

We are glad to learn from Dr. Burkett that twenty-eight bright, enterprising young men from the farm have entered for the A. and M. College short courses in agriculture and dairying, and several others are yet to come. This is a better attendance than last year, and reflects credit on the energy of Dr. Burkett, but it is not nearly so large as it should be—nor so large as it will be when we get our new agricultural building and the splendid work of Dr. Burkett and his associates become better known.

By the way, Dr. Burkett has just issued a little book of 125 pages, "Feeding Farm Animals," which seems to us to be the clearest and most concise discussion of the matter that we have ever seen. It is prepared especially for students, space being left for notes, but can be read with profit by any farmer. The price is \$1. We understand that Dr. Burkett is to follow this up with two other works, "Farm Animals" and "Breeding Farm Animals."

WHAT THE LEGISLATURE IS DOING.

We shall endeavor to keep our readers thoroughly posted as to the really important work of the Legislature, but we shall take it for granted that the majority of them are not especially interested in knowing that Representative Smith has introduced a bill to stop fishing in Rocky Branch, that Senator Brown wishes to stop the sale of liquor within two miles of Wayback Church, or that the Hon. Bill Jones has presented a petition for the no-fence law in Hanging Dog Township. The county papers and the big dailies can take care of these little local affairs, and we shall attempt to give the reader an intelligent idea of legislative work without requiring him to read so much that is of no interest to him.

Naturally, very little work of importance was done last week. The officers were elected (see list on page 12), the Governor's message presented (it appears in condensed form elsewhere in this number), and the Senate committees named (as given on another page). Representative Scott introduced the first House bill, it being for an appropriation of \$50,000 for an agricultural building at the A. & M. College. The Anti-Saloon League's temperance bill, outlined in Mr. Bailey's letter last week, has been introduced by Mr. London. Senator White has introduced a bill that ought to pass prohibiting the sale of morphine, cocaine, opium, etc., except when prescribed by a physician. Senator Godwin wishes to appoint four Democratic commissioners for Sampson County to have the same powers as the three anti-Democrats chosen by the people. A bill has passed the Senate for two additional commissioners for Rockingham. A measure of interest to farmers is that by Senator Warren making it a misdemeanor to remove a fence that protects another's crop, even after ninety days' notice, in January and February.

But law-making is not now the chief business of the Legislature. The all-absorbing topic is the election of a Senator to succeed Mr. Pritchard. The formal election will occur next Tuesday (20th), but unless there is a deadlock the lucky man will be named in the Democratic caucus several days before that time. The first caucus for considering the matter was held Friday night, when three ballots were taken. On the third ballot the six candidates showed the following strength:

Lee S. Overman	50
Cyrus B. Watson	38
Locke Craig	28
Julian S. Carr	15
Wm. A. Hoke	5
Sydenham B. Alexander	8

This showed a gain of 7 for Overman over the first ballot, a gain of 1 for Watson, a loss of 1 for Craig, a loss of 2 for Carr, a loss of 4 for Hoke, while Alexander's vote did not change in the three ballots.

A second caucus adjourned early this (Tuesday) morning, but we go to press too early to announce the result.

GOVERNOR AYCOCK'S MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE.

We wish that we could publish in full Governor Aycock's message to the General Assembly, read in both branches of that body last Thursday morning. It is an able state paper—a comprehensive review of the State's progress and the work of the State institutions during the last two years. But it would fill eight of our sixteen pages, and instead of printing it in full, we set content ourselves by giving its salient points in the two or three columns available for this purpose.

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Like President Roosevelt, Governor Aycock begins his message with a reference to the prosperity of the people. But while the people have prospered, the State's revenue has fallen far short of its expenses, and in the Treasury deficit the Legislature has one of its most serious problems. But the Governor is of the opinion that the new assessments to be made next June will show such an increased amount of taxable property as to supply all the demands for current expenses from now on. And in this assessment intangible property, as well as tangible property, must be properly valued. "Much of the value of corporations is intangible and no tax law which ignores this intangible property is just to the owners of tangible property assessed at its true value. The law now in force recognizes this fact and proceeds upon the idea that 'whatever property is worth for the purposes of income and sale, it is also worth for taxation.' No just man demands more than this, and no fair-minded man can justify anything less."

All this means, of course, that hereafter a heavier franchise tax should be paid by the railroads. But the Governor says that there "is much property other than railroad property undervalued for taxation. When the law says that property shall be assessed at its true value in money, any custom or rule of assessing it at less than its true value ought to be abandoned." If this is done, "ample revenue will come to the State for every legitimate purpose, and those who are already paying upon full values will enjoy that equality which by right belongs to every citizen in bearing the burdens of government."

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Just in this connection the report of the State Tax Commission (whose recommendations have already been given in The Progressive Farmer) is referred to, and the problem of accurate listing of personal property is discussed. Much more noteworthy is this reference to saloon taxation: "The recommendation of the Commission that a tax should be levied for State purposes on distilleries, rectifying establishments and saloons seems to be well founded. The State has heretofore levied a tax on saloons for the use of the school fund only. It would seem that an additional tax should be levied for State purposes."

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Next the Governor takes up the report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Educational progress is, of course, the matter nearest his heart, and to it he gives more space than to any other subject. "Interest in education has greatly increased and we now have promise of realizing the highest dreams of our fathers. The last General Assembly made provision to secure a four-months term of public school in each school district in the State. We should not stop here. There should be a constant effort to go further. Local taxation should be encouraged. Public opinion should be made strong enough to compel the attendance of the children upon the schools."

And now comes a subject on which a small man, a mere politician, would have kept silent. "But for the fact that some of your honorable body have come to the Legislature instructed by